

Protocol Area 5 (Activity 7)

Mental Health Services
Reviewer Training
Spring 2006



HEAD START

Protocol Area 5: Special Help for Children's Individualized Mental Health Needs

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- How does the grantee ensure that parents, program staff and the mental health professional design and implement program practices that are responsive to the identified behavioral and mental health concerns of an individual or group of children including providing special help children with atypical behavior?

Protocol Area 5: Special Help for Children's Individualized Mental Health Needs

- Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns

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- Are program practices responsive to the identified behavioral and mental health concerns of an individual child or group of children?
- What systems are in place for providing service to a child with identified mental health or behavioral concerns?
- What structures are in place for a particular classroom that may have a number of children with behavioral concerns and/or overall classroom management issues?

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- Are there contingency plans for addressing mental health issues associated with traumatic events in the program, for enrolled families, or in the wider community?
- Are there contingency plans for psychiatric emergencies (i.e. a child threatening to harm self or others)?

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- **1304.24(a)(3)(i) -- Design and implement program practices responsive to the identified behavioral and mental health concerns of an individual child or group of children;**

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- How does the program assist in providing special help to children with atypical behavior or development?

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- 1304.24(a)(3) -- Mental health program services must include a regular schedule of on-site mental health consultation involving the mental health professional, program staff, and parents on how to: ... (iii) **Assist in providing special help for children with atypical behavior or development; and**

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- **Guidance:**

Mental health professionals provide information on and assistance with identifying situations that require treatment.

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- **Guidance:**

Professionals also help make:

- appropriate referrals,
- visit homes (to provide suggestions for modifying the home environment),
- observe classroom or group socialization experiences (to provide suggestions for modifying the program to meet the needs of the child), and
- support parents and staff in their efforts to help the child.

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- Do program plans/documents describe a systematic approach to addressing children's mental health that clearly communicates to staff and parents what services are available and how to access them?

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- Is there a system of referral and follow-up that incorporates the mental health needs of infants and toddlers?

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- Does the program self-assessment address the usefulness, sufficiency, and timeliness of the mental health services?

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- Do administrative/policy records demonstrate attention to and support of mental health services? (Records of policy council, budgets, staffing, training)

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- Are there reports from the mental health professional, based on observations of classroom/home visiting practices that provide mental health guidance for staff/parents on improving mental health practices?

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- Do IEPs/IFSPs include behavioral/mental health services for children with disabilities who have these needs?

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- Are there individualized plans or reports related to mental health or behavioral concerns for a child and/or group of children (this may include behavior or treatment plans, report recommendations, classroom charts, individualized visual schedules, etc.)?

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- How do staff and/or parents request and receive mental health consultation for a child with identified concerns?

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- Has staff received training, extra supervision, mental health consultation on addressing the mental health needs/behavioral needs of a child or group of children?
- How are parents involved?

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- Was the training, extra supervision, mental health consultation helpful to support the staff and/or parents in meeting the individual child or children's needs?

Program Practices that are Responsive to Identified Concerns (cont.)

- Who provides follow-up on referrals for children and/or families?